

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-17 were previously pending.

Claims 2-6, 8, 10-12, and 15 have been allowed.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16 and 17 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 13, 14, and 16 have been amended.

Claim 18 has been added.

Claims 1-18 are now pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103

In the Office Action, claims 1, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being obvious in view Takahashi. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 13, 14, and 16

Claims 1, 7, 9, 13, 14, and 16 relate to securing bandwidth for a plurality of paths included in a service request message. The request message includes bandwidth information for a plurality of paths set for the service required by the subscriber sending the request message. The claims have been amended to recite that a channel type of each path is different. Examples of different channel types might include: a control channel, a voice channel, an image channel, etc.

In contrast, the SETUP message of Takahashi contains Peak Cell Rate (PCR) information. Each PCR is one of the ATM traffic descriptor elements. A PCR relates to only one UBR connection (path). Takahashi does not discuss a channel type of each PCR or path. Nor does Takahashi discuss plural different channel types. Therefore, Takahashi does not discuss or suggest that a request message includes bandwidth information for a plurality of paths set or

required by the overall service required by the subscriber, and particularly where the channel type of each path is different.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New claim 18

New claim 18 recites that the channel type corresponds to a type of service provided on a channel of the path. Takahashi does not discuss paths that correspond to different types of services.

Claim 17

Claim 17 recites features of a subscriber terminal, which is provided as a service via a switching system using multiple paths from a service provider. Takahashi discusses an ATM switching apparatus that selects a path and receives and transmits messages accordingly. Takahashi does not discuss a subscriber terminal that is provided with a service via a switching system using multiple paths from a service provider.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

on June 4, 2003

STAAS & HALSEY

By: James Strom

Date: June 4, 2003

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the following claims:

1. (TWICE AMENDED) A path setting device to secure bandwidth for multiple paths to provide a service from a service provider to a subscriber, comprising:

means for determining whether a received message is a request message for a first path, the request message including bandwidth information for a plurality of paths set for the service required by the subscriber, where a channel type of each path is different; and

means for securing a bandwidth based on the bandwidth information set in the request message for the first path between the service provider and the subscriber in response to receiving the request message for the first path.

7. (TWICE AMENDED) A path setting control method of securing bandwidth for multiple paths to provide a service from a service provider to a subscriber via a switching system, comprising:

sending a request message for a first path from the subscriber to the switching system, the request message including bandwidth information for the multiple paths to provide the service for a subscriber, where a channel type of each path is different; and

securing a bandwidth based on the bandwidth information in the request message for the first path between the service provider and the subscriber when the request message for the first path is received at the switching system.

9. (TWICE AMENDED) A switching system for setting multiple paths for a service provided from a service provider to a subscriber, comprising:

an extraction device to extract messages from a subscriber;

a message determination device to determine whether the message extracted by the message extraction device is a request message for a first path between the service provider and the subscriber, the request message including bandwidth information for a plurality of paths for the service, where a channel type of each path is different; and

a bandwidth securing and processing device to secure a bandwidth based on requested bandwidth information set in the request message in response to receiving the request message for the first path.

13. (TWICE AMENDED) A path setting device to secure bandwidth for multiple paths to provide a service from a service provider to a subscriber, comprising:

means for determining whether a received message is a request message;

means for determining whether a number of request messages received from the same subscriber reaches a number of paths set in the request message for the first path, where a channel type of each path is different;

means for securing a bandwidth required for all paths set to provide the service for the subscriber between the service provider and the subscriber when the number of request messages received from the same subscriber reaches the number of paths set in the request message for the first path.

14. (ONCE AMENDED) A path setting control method of securing bandwidth for multiple paths to provide a service from a service provider to a subscriber via a switching system, comprising:

sending a request message for a first path from the subscriber to the switching system, in which a number of paths required to provide the service for a subscriber is set, where a channel type of each path is different;

sending as many request messages as the number of paths successively from the subscriber to the switching system;

securing the bandwidth required for all paths set to provide the service for a subscriber between the service provider and the subscriber when a number of request messages reaches the number of paths set in the request message for the first path.

16. (TWICE AMENDED) A path setting control method of setting multiple paths for a service provided from service provider to a subscriber via a switching system, comprising:

sending a request message from the subscriber to the switching system to set, in order of large bandwidth to small bandwidth, the various bandwidth which correspond to multiple paths

required to provide the service, where a channel type of each path is different; and
securing the bandwidth required between the service provider and the subscriber in order
of large bandwidth to small bandwidth in response to the request message.

17. (UNAMENDED) A subscriber terminal in a network which is provided a service
via a switching system using multiple paths from a service provider, comprising:

a path selecting device to select an unconnected path having a bandwidth which is
largest among paths to provide a requested service;

a message transmitting device to transmit a request message to set the path selected by
said path selecting device to the switching system; and

a received message processing device to determine whether there are any paths which
have to be set, and to instruct the path selecting device to select the path having the largest
bandwidth among the remaining paths to provide the service when there is any path which has
to be set.

18. (NEW) A method according to claim 16, wherein a channel type corresponds to a
type of service provided by a channel of the path.